

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 34

1130 Hours November 28, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: **Monday 28 November:** Mostly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 60s, southeast winds 15 to 25 MPH with gusts up to 40 MPH. Chance of precipitation 40% with slight chance of showers in the morning and then chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Monday night - Showers and thunderstorms, breezy, low temperatures low 50s, south winds 15 to 25 MPH with gusts to around 40 MPH. Chance of precipitation 90%. **Tuesday 29 November** - Showers likely in the morning and afternoon, high temperatures low to mid 50s, southwest winds 5 to 15 MPH. Chance of precipitation 70%. Tuesday night - Partly cloudy, low temperatures upper 20s to low 30s, west winds 5 to 10 MPH. **Wednesday 30 November** - Partly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 40s, west winds 5 to 10 MPH.

National Weather Service, Morristown TN, Hazardous Weather Outlook 28 November: Threat of severe weather across the area. Main severe weather threat being damaging wind gusts with large hail also being a threat. Some tornadoes will also be possible. Locations with the greatest chance of severe weather will be in the southern Cumberland Plateau and southern Tennessee Valley. Time of greatest severe weather threat will likely be from around sunset to around midnight.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is in Wise County assisting local officials.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

- ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.
- ESF 8 – Health & Medical:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. No new cases of chickenpox reported and VDH will continue monitoring chickenpox for additional 14 days. Environmental Health Specialist monitoring permitted food service establishments to ensure compliance with regulations and plans. **Test results on water samples remain at 0 for Chlorophorm counts. When needed, two sample kits are available to sample additional raw waters sources.**
- ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:** Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)
The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. **The number of soldiers on mission is now ten.** VNG developing transition plans for blivet operations and cave operations in coordination with local governments.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

- ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area and messages are being changed frequently so members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

LOGISTICS SECTION

- ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. VEOC received request from Big Stone Gap to maintain National Guard support and blivet operations through **15 December 2005**. VDEM/VEOC stressed need for Big Stone Gap to provide specific justification for extension of National Guard and blivet support. VDEM/VEOC stressed that Big Stone Gap needs to develop and implement plans to utilize commercial resources to support operations during recovery operations if they cannot provide justification for extension.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Big Stone Gap submitted request for extension of blivet operations National Guard support to 15 December 2005. Current Powell River stream flow is **21 cubic feet per second**. Outdoor pumping operations have been winterized using shelters with heat to protect from freezing and all systems are being monitored 24/7. Vendor is making modifications to electric pump that was purchased by Big Stone Gap for cave pumping operations and expect to have pump installed 2 December. Big Stone Gap extended the leases for the portable water treatment plants through 10 January 2006 and purchased enough additional filter modules for the two portable plants to bring them up to maximum filtration capacity. Wise County and Big Stone Gap in conjunction with VDEM Region 4 Coordinator provided VEOC with requested information on current total water usage, current production and source, water tank storage facilities and capacity, current reservoir level and analysis of alternatives with local recommendations. Detection and repair of leaks in the system continues. Big Stone Gap reported 130 leaks detected and repaired reducing losses by 265,000 gallons per day since 1 August. The Incident Management Team will meet 29 November to discuss long-range plans. All local governments are encouraged to develop and implement plans for transition of water supply management utilizing only local and private resources.